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L PEO AID			FROM : Amembassy BONN			DATE: October 5, 1964		
S/P RN/AN-HALL			SUBJECT: Appointment of Dr. Ernst Brueckner as Vice-President of the BfV			REF : Bonn's A-196 of July 24, 1964		
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<p>The Federal Government press spokesman, von Hase, announced at a press conference on September 30 that Dr. Ernst Brueckner has been named to succeed Albert Radke as Vice-President of the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV). An earlier report on the resignation of Radke and the forthcoming appointment of Dr. Brueckner in the wake of investigations into the practices and procedures of the BfV resulting from the wire-tapping investigations, was forwarded in the reference airgram. Attached is a report on the background leading up to Dr. Brueckner's appointment and biographic data on him provided by CAS.</p> <p>For the Ambassador:</p> <p><i>James S. Sutterlin</i> James S. Sutterlin First Secretary of Embassy</p> <p>1 Attachment as stated</p> <p>file in []</p>								
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 NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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SUBJECT: Replacement of BfV Vice-President

1. Dr. Ernst Brueckner, until recently President of the Security Group (SG) of the Bundeskriminalamt, has succeeded Albert Radke as Vice-President of the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV). Dr. Brueckner's appointment to his new position was effective October 1, 1964. Herr Radke's resignation from the BfV and government service was effective July 31, 1964.

2. The background of this change is as follows: Since the Fall of 1963, the BfV has been under continual press attack following public allegations by two former BfV officials, Werner Paetsch and Wolfgang Bethke, that the BfV engaged in the illegal use of information from telephone monitoring. These claims resulted in the establishment of a Bundestag Investigating Committee and also an independent investigation of the BfV by Judge Max Silberstein. In April 1964 portions of the final Silberstein report were leaked to the press, including Spiegel magazine (April 15) and the Frankfurter Allgemeine (April 17). The latter quoted the Silberstein report, which was a classified document which has not yet officially been made public, as saying that Radke had not effectively assisted BfV President Schroebers in the direction of the BfV. The quoted comments went on to say: "For this the Vice-President lacks the gifts which must characterize a personality with wide authority, especially the capability of quick comprehension and appropriate manipulation of matters which are complicated in both a factual and legal sense". Radke subsequently discussed these remarks with Minister Hoecherl who confirmed that the quotes were accurate. Radke then protested that Silberstein had talked with him for only about five minutes during his investigation and that he had been given no chance to defend himself. Minister Hoecherl allegedly promised to rehabilitate Radke during the April 29 Bundestag debate on the findings of the Investigative Sub-Committee, but in fact Minister Hoecherl said nothing during that debate to relieve Radke of any blame either for inefficiency in general or for responsibility in the alleged misuse of telephone monitoring by the BfV. Radke felt that this was shabby treatment after 14 years in this office and therefore chose to resign in protest effective July 31, 1964, rather than on the long-planned date of September 30.

3. The following biographic data on Dr. Brueckner may be of interest: The new BfV Vice-President, Leitender Regierungsdirektor Dr. Ernst Brueckner, was born on December 9, 1909 in Magdeburg. His father, Paul Brueckner, the proprietor of a flower shop, was killed in 1917; his mother was Helene Brueckner nee Paarmann. Dr. Brueckner is married to Elly Brueckner nee Doerr. They have three children: Ernst born 1939, Christiane born 1943, and Katharine, born 1948. The Brueckners currently live in Bad Godesberg, Im Meissengarten 68. The Brueckners are non-practising Protestants. They have a close and harmonious family life.

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4. After graduating from the Domgymnasium in Magdeburg, Dr. Brueckner studied law, political science, and political economy at the Universities of Marburg and Halle from 1929 to 1933. On June 1, 1933 he passed a State Examination in Naumburg with a grade "satisfactory" and he was appointed a "Referendar" on August 2, 1933. From 1933 to 1937 he served his apprenticeship as a "Referendar" with the Courts and Public Prosecutors Office in the Bezirk of the Oberlandesgericht in Naumburg. From July 20, 1937 to November 7, 1937 he served as an Assistant with the Public Prosecutor's Office in Torgau, and from November 8, 1937 to November 30, 1937 as an Assistant with the Public Prosecutor's Office in Halle. On July 6, 1937 he passed a second State Examination in Berlin with the grade "satisfactory". From December 15, 1937 to January 2, 1938 Dr. Brueckner served as an Assistant with the Public Prosecutor's Office in Nordhausen, and from October 1, 1938 to January 31, 1939 he worked in the administration of the judge's office at the Landgericht Magdeburg. Dr. Brueckner was promoted to "Probeassessor" on February 3, 1938, to "Gerichtsassessor" on January 11, 1939, and to "Staatsanwalt" on October 1, 1939. From February 1939 until August 1939 he was a District Attorney in Itzehoe. In August 1939 Dr. Brueckner was drafted into the German Luftwaffe Anti-Aircraft Units, became a Lieutenant in 1941, a 1st Lt. in 1943. He served both in Germany and in Holland. He was captured in March 1945 by the American Army near Remagen, served as a prisoner interpreter in the Food Depots at Cherbourg and Le Mans, and was released from POW camp in early 1946. After a short rearrest because of his former service as a District Attorney, Dr. Brueckner was again released from internment in Hammelburg and returned to Itzehoe where he resumed his career as a District Attorney in late 1946. He held this position until August 2, 1953. During the period 1947-1952 he was in charge of political offenses; from 1952-1953 he was in charge of economic offenses of special significance. On August 3, 1953 Dr. Brueckner was appointed President of the SG of the Bundeskriminalamt.

5. Dr. Brueckner became a member of the NSDAP on October 1, 1937. He became a member of the SA on October 10, 1933 and his highest rank was a Sturmmann (which is the lowest possible rank). He claims that he was never employed by any office of the Gestapo, SS, or SD. Dr. Brueckner was certified denazified ("entlastet") on March 2, 1948.

6. Dr. Brueckner has travelled widely during his position with the SG, including numerous trips to the United States, South America, Canada, the Middle and Far East, the Soviet Union, and Europe. Two of his children have studied for a year in the United States under the auspices of the American Field Service.

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7. All American officials who have dealt with Dr. Brueckner have found him very intelligent and energetic, pro-American, open to new ideas, and most pleasant to deal with. He has been described as a typical German civil servant in the best sense of the word. He has wide interests which range from horses to modern literature and music. Typical for him is the stress which he lays on the fact that he and his family lived completely from the official rations during the period 1945 to 1948 when almost nobody else in Germany did. Even today Dr. Brueckner lives very modestly and unostentatiously. He is famed for his excellent humour and skill as a raconteur. He has a working knowledge of English and French.

8. It is believed that Dr. Brueckner will prove an effective and cooperative Vice-President of the BfV. His principal weakness will be his lack of experience in intelligence work which he knows only from the executive or police side. He is the type of individual, however, who is quick to grasp and exploit new ideas, and it is believed that within a short period of time he should be effective in his new position. No radical changes are expected because of Dr. Brueckner's appointment to this position, but there may be a tendency for closer cooperation among the German security organs because of Dr. Brueckner's close relations with General Gehlen of the Bundesnachrichtendienst and because of his known support for greater centralization of German security organs.

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